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OBSERVANCE
OF
RURAL LIFE SUNDAY
BY 4-H CLUBS

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Theme:

MORAL RESPONSIBILITY
AND
NATIONAL UNITY

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★ JUL 10 1942 ★

U. S. Department of Agriculture

"Your practical experiences in farming and home-making have prepared you 4-H Club members for many tasks important in peacetime and indispensable in wartime. No other group of rural young people anywhere else in the world has so much worth defending, or is better prepared to help defend what it has.

"Your 4-H Club pledge embodies the obligation which rests upon every club member as a young citizen. Repeat it, study it, make it part of your very being. Let your head, heart, hands, and health truly be dedicated to your country, which needs them now as never before."

Franklin D. Roosevelt.

U.S. EXTENSION SERVICE

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FOREWORD

The observance of Rural Life Sunday by 4-H Clubs throughout the country seems particularly appropriate in this year of national crises when the world is torn apart by the most brutal and extensive war in all history. The suggested theme for its observance is "Moral Responsibility and National Unity."

At no other time has it been so important for all young people to understand and appreciate that our democracy is the embodiment of the Christian idea, founded by men who cherished their freedom under God above all else. Young people should be led to recognize this precious heritage and their responsibility to defend it at all costs.

Young people should be led also to realize that in the history of humanity, in times of great crisis, it has been the spiritual element that has carried a people through.

May the observance of Rural Life Sunday throughout Rural America this year mark another high point in the attainment of that national spiritual unity so essential to the victorious outcome of any supreme effort.

M. L. Wilson
Director of Extension Work.

OBSERVANCE OF RURAL LIFE SUNDAY
BY 4-H CLUBS

Theme:

Moral Responsibility and National Unity

The 4-H Clubs in many States are now setting aside one Sunday in the year when as many as possible of its members plan to attend some church of their own choosing. Rural Life Sunday occurs the fifth Sunday after Easter, having its roots in the Rogation Days. Therefore, this year Rural Life Sunday will be observed on May 10 by those who adhere strictly to the precedent established in 1929 when Rural Life Sunday was first observed. However, insomuch as May 10 is being designated as Mother's Day, it may prove more satisfactory for the 4-H Clubs of a community to observe Rural Life Sunday or 4-H Club Sunday as it is often called, on May 17 or on some other Sunday in either May or June.

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The suggested theme for 1942 is "Moral Responsibility and National Unity" which seems especially appropriate during this time of stress and strain. Many phases of the 4-H Club program may be used to show the close connection between the practical and the spiritual phases of life, particularly as these relate to the suggested theme. Emphasis should be placed on those practical ways in which the 4-H Club members are contributing to the physical and spiritual strength of their homes and of their home communities, through their National 4-H Victory Program, to the end that this world fight for freedom may be won, and soon. Whatever the program, this Service should emphasize the spiritual values necessary for a united people engaged in a great cause. Such a program also should afford club members an opportunity to identify themselves with those people of the community who are now bent on making every sacrifice possible that will aid in winning the war.

"Prayer is the most powerful force in the world today. It lifts the souls of men and quickens their spirits. It builds faith and a fearlessness to do what is believed to be right. It makes men strong. It is the forerunner of miraculous achievement. Without it, no nation can survive."

Prepared by Gertrude L. Warren, Organization of 4-H Club Work.

THEME THOUGHTS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands; one Nation, indivisible; with liberty and justice for all.

THE 4-H CLUB PLEDGE

I Pledge:

My Head to clearer thinking,
My Heart to greater loyalty,
My Hands to larger service,
My Health to better living, for
My Club, my Community, and my Country.

4-H CITIZENSHIP PLEDGE

We, individually and collectively, pledge our efforts from day to day, to fight for the ideals of this Nation.

We will never allow tyranny and injustice to become enthroned in this, our country, through indifference to our duties as citizens.

We will strive for intellectual honesty and exercise it through our power of franchise. We will obey the laws of our land and endeavor increasingly to quicken the sense of public duty among our fellow men.

We will strive for individual improvement and for social betterment. We will devote our talents to the enrichment of our homes and our communities in relation to their material, social, and spiritual needs.

We will endeavor to transmit this Nation to posterity not merely as we found it, but freer, happier, and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.

THOUGHTS - R. H. EMBERSON

The world looks dark. All great nations are at war. There is no peace, no security. But we must not let these conditions dim the star of hope nor weaken our faith in the future.

The duties and responsibilities of citizenship will soon rest upon the shoulders of 4-H Club members. Not only are they now taking anew the National 4-H Club Pledge but they are taking a further pledge of loyalty to the spirit of democracy and to Christian civilization.

Social and economic conditions vary with the ages, but the spirit of the Sermon on the Mount never changes.

We need now to stress the four freedoms: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, Freedom from Fear, and Freedom from Want. We need at this time to arrive at a better understanding of racial and religious tolerance. We need to develop the spirit of leadership and the expression of opinion on important matters.

We need to arrive at a better understanding of all local and national problems and to show our willingness to do our part in helping to solve them.

We need to understand as never before the meaning of the slogan, "A share for everyone and everyone doing his share" and shape our lives accordingly.

THOUGHTS - J. R. HARGREAVES

War produces not only the tragic struggles between contending nations resulting in long-lasting antagonisms, but it also arouses immediate mental disturbances. The last war demonstrated that long-established social conventions could be rudely shattered. Social proprieties were discounted; standards of honesty were seriously modified; greed often took precedence over patriotism; personal advantage at the cost of the well-being of others became in many instances an unquestioned practice; and the often-described cruelties of warfare coarsened feelings and engendered hate.

These unfortunate results are liable to be again experienced unless constructive measures are taken to develop a controlling personal attitude. This will not be the result of exhortation or criticism but of definite cultivation of traits of character which transcend the temptations incident to swift changes and opportunities to take advantage of others.

In the ages from 10 to 12 the inventiveness of local leaders may be taxed to produce activities which will develop within the boy or girl those traits which they may greatly admire in others. Research indicates that "kindness and fair play" are the traits most appreciated at that early age. This is doubtless because of the comfort or convenience such attitudes make possible for them. But there are procedures by which these traits can become inherent in the individual. This can be brought about very largely by offering many opportunities for the exercise of kindness and fair play. The kindly spirit can be developed in connection with the care of animals and birds as well as with those less fortunate. Fair play may be exercised in connection with project work as well as in recreation. Once developed, this one trait establishes honesty and consideration in the several contacts of life.

In the ages from 13 to 16 definite responsibilities which entail applied cooperation will assist in keeping alive the values which might otherwise be disregarded. When a youth is doing something for family or

community safety or comfort, he is gaining an abiding sense of the real value of the thing in which he is helping.

In the ages 17 to 20 very definite citizenship responsibilities can be developed. In this period most boys and many girls will be preparing for military service. They will make better soldiers and better nurses if they have learned to think in terms of the valuations of democracy and its preservation for the ultimate good of all peoples.

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"People throughout the world need to cultivate a moral sensitivity and compassion that will enable them to combat successfully tyranny and cruelty with their resultant fears."

--Leonard K. Elmhirst.

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"The challenge before us today is plain. Total war makes demands on everyone. All of us cannot take part in the military defense of the Nation, but we are a part of the military defense just the same. Before there can be Victory, there must be work and toil and sacrifice. Every man, every woman, every child must be ready to take his or her place."

--M. L. Wilson.

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"Thousands of farm boys and girls and young men and women are needed to help with all kinds of wartime work right on their own farms, in their own homes, and in their own communities. We are asking that they volunteer for such service with the 4-H Clubs of the Nation this summer, and thereby become members of a vast army of young people who are training for leadership while they are helping to win the war.

"With the welfare of our country in the balance, we must fight on every front - at home and abroad. 4-H Clubs are fighting on the farm and home fronts where dangers are less but jobs just as important.

"We must win this war and also win the peace. Farm boys and girls of today have a chance to do their part by serving with honor on the home front."

--Ralph L. Carr,
Governor of Colorado.

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"Let us try to think now beyond all the walls that we live behind -- beyond our club and beyond our community. Let's extend our thoughts out to all the communities that make the rural life of our land, while we sing our national hymn, God of Our Fathers. And is it not even possible for us to make our thoughts break through one more wall, and reach some of the rural folk overseas who are plowing their land in the midst of those 'war's alarms' of which we shall be singing in our hymn? If we can

do this, I believe that we shall interpret the meaning of Rural Life Sunday in its larger significance, and truly feel ourselves a part of the vast brotherhood of the land."

-- Max V. Exner.

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"Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle. But you shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself, at the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God."

--Phillips Brooks.

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"But there are values emanating from the 4-H program which are more far-reaching and powerful than the production of food and clothing, which soon are consumed. These values are found in the fiber of our coming citizens. 4-H Club members are building character--the brand of character required of American citizens if democracy is to survive in a world where selfish and criminal States are challenging our very existence. Courage, self-reliance, willingness to work, honesty, and a live-and-let-live philosophy are the traits developed by 4-H Club members. These are the qualities which will save us as a democracy and by which we will merit world leadership."

--Hon. Hampton P. Fulmer.

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THE SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE IN THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

REMINDERS TO 4-H CLUB MEMBERS IN THE OBSERVANCE OF RURAL LIFE SUNDAY

The first act of the Pilgrim Fathers after landing on Plymouth Rock in 1620 was thanksgiving and prayer.

Tablets mark the pews rented and occupied by George Washington in churches in Virginia and New York.

"In God We Trust" is engraved on the coins of this Nation.

The national Congress and the State legislatures open their sessions with prayer.

"The official documents of American history. . . affirm and reaffirm that this is a religious Nation."

--United States Supreme Court decision.

"The churches are the greatest influence in this world of ours to overcome the present tendency toward greed."

--President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"A churchless community, a community where men have abandoned and scoffed at or ignored their religious needs, is a community on rapid downgrade."

--Former President Theodore Roosevelt.

"The older I grow, the more certain I am that morality is dependent upon the spread of religious conviction in the government and civilization of this country."

--Former President William Howard Taft.

"Our civilization cannot survive materially unless it be redeemed spiritually."

--Former President Woodrow Wilson.

"The strength of a country is the strength of its religious convictions."

--Former President Calvin Coolidge.

"Our churches and religious institutions are indispensable stabilizing factors in our civilization."

--Former President Herbert Hoover.

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

TYPES OF OBSERVANCE OF RURAL LIFE SUNDAY BY 4-H CLUBS IN 1941

All club members attended the church of their choice.
Clubs went in a body to a combined service in a central church.
Clubs held service in a local hall.
Clubs put on special services during Sunday School hour.
Clubs put on special service in some scenic setting.
Clubs conducted entire service evening or afternoon.
Clubs made certain desirable contributions to the service.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF 4-H CLUBS TO CHURCH SERVICES IN 1941

Made careful plans to suit local conditions.
Attended church as a group and wore membership pins, uniforms, or some special emblem made for the occasion.
Gave talks; read poems, creeds, pledges, prayers, scriptures; contributed special musical numbers.
Invited parents, neighbors, and other friends to attend.
Took charge of ushering.
Decorated the church with plants and flowers.
Had a 4-H Club committee in uniform to welcome people at the door of the church.

SUGGESTIONS FOR REPORT OF THE OBSERVANCE
OF RURAL LIFE SUNDAY BY 4-H CLUBS

It is suggested that reports be made regarding:

1. The type of program developed.
2. The number of services held.
3. The total number of 4-H members in attendance.
4. Ways in which the 4-H members participated.
5. General impressions of the results of the observance of Rural Life Sunday by the 4-H Clubs.

"Religion is that impulse which holds us in line with the intended human fulfillment. It finds expression and development in all that makes for home, community, and world fellowship in keeping with the teachings of Christ."

--J. R. Hargreaves.

AMERICAN'S CREED

I believe in the United States of America as a Government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

The American's Creed was written by William Tyler Page, Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, in 1917. It was adopted and promoted by the Government's Committee on Publication, and was accepted by the House of Representatives on behalf of the American People on April 3, 1918. Since then its message has been an inspiration to the American Nation; and its spirit of faith will carry it through the centuries as one of the finest expressions of patriotism.

THE NATIONAL 4-H CLUB CREED

I believe in 4-H Club work for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen.

I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it will give me to think, to plan, and to reason.

I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness it will give me to become kind, sympathetic, and true.

I believe in the training of my HANDS for the dignity it will give me to be helpful, useful, and skillful.

I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, to resist disease, and to work efficiently.

I believe in my country, my State, and my community, and in my responsibility for their development.

In all these things I believe, and I am willing to dedicate my efforts to their fulfillment.